Luke 17:26-37
Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the Son of Man; they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage up to the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Similarly, as it was in the days of Lot: they were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, building; on the day when Lot left Sodom, fire and brimstone rained from the sky to destroy them all. So it will be on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, someone who is on the housetop and whose belongings are in the house must not go down to get them, and likewise one in the field must not return to what was left behind. Remember the wife of Lot. Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it. I tell you, on that night there will be two people in one bed; one will be taken, the other left. And there will be two women grinding meal together; one will be taken, the other left." They said to him in reply, "Where, Lord?" He said to them, "Where the body is,
Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus was asked when the Kingdom of God would come. Once again, He did not give a direct answer because only the Father knows for sure (Mark 13:32). He described its coming, however, as an event that will come with such a suddenness that many will be caught off guard. How does one prepare for its coming? Stay focused on the work that one has been assigned to do in this life. Live a life whereby one will be found worthy of and ready for the Kingdom to come.

Food for your Journey

When we hear about unethical executives whose careers and companies have gone down in flames, it's sadly unsurprising. Hubris and greed have a way of catching up with people. But is the opposite also true? Do highly principled leaders and their organizations perform especially well?

They do, according to a new study by KRW International, a Minneapolis-based leadership consultancy. The researchers found that CEOs whose employees gave them high marks for character had an average return on assets of 9.35% over a two-year period. That's nearly five times as much as what those with low character ratings had; their ROA averaged only 1.93%.

Character is a subjective trait that might seem to defy quantification. To measure it, KRW cofounder Fred Kiel and his colleagues began by sifting through the anthropologist Donald Brown's classic inventory of about 500 behaviors and characteristics that are recognized and displayed in all human societies. Drawing on that list, they identified four moral principles -- integrity, responsibility, forgiveness, and compassion -- as universal [emphasis added]. Then they sent anonymous surveys to employees at 84 U.S. companies and nonprofits, asking, among other things, how consistently their CEOs and management teams embodied the four principles.

At one end of the spectrum are the 10 executives Kiel calls "virtuoso CEOs" -- those whose employees gave them and their management teams high ratings on all four principles. People reported that these leaders frequently engaged in behaviors that reveal strong character -- for instance, standing up for what's right, expressing concern for the common good, letting go of mistakes (their own and others'), and showing empathy. ...

At the other end of the spectrum, the 10 lowest scorers -- Kiel calls them "self-focused CEOs" -- were often described as warping the truth for personal gain and caring mostly about themselves and their own financial security, no matter the cost to others. ... Employees said that the self-focused CEOs told the truth "slightly more than half the time," couldn't be trusted to keep promises, often passed off blame to others, frequently punished well-intentioned people for making mistakes and were especially bad at caring for people.


A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Out of love and gratitude, I want to live the good life, a life worthy of my calling to be Your disciple. In a world filled with temptations and enticements, I pray that You keep me focused on You. With the time You have given me, may I live as a witness to Your Presence in this world. Amen